

OPA Convention draws large crowd



STANDING ROOM ONLY.

OPA members packed the room for the annual OPA Bloopers Show presented by Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Oklahoma Press Association.

Welcome back! OPA members greeted each other with handshakes and hugs at the June 11-12 OPA Convention at the Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City Hotel.

It had been nearly two years since many had seen each other due to the pandemic and cancellation of the 2020 annual convention.

New officers and directors were elected at the OPA Business Meeting on Friday. John Denny

Montgomery, publisher of The Purcell Register, was elected as president. Mark Millsap, publisher of The Norman Transcript, was elected as vice president and Jeff Mayo, publisher of the Sequoyah County Times, will serve another year as treasurer. Members renewed a three-year director term for Shauna Belyeu, general manager of The Eufaula Indian Journal, and a new three-year director term for Misti Rinehart, Tulsa World advertising

manager. Terms begin on July 1.

The first session Friday featured three attorneys – Doug Dodd, Anna Sanger and KatieBeth Gardner – discussing legal issues affecting Oklahoma. Dodd and Sanger are from the law firm of Doerner Saunders Daniel & Anderson LLP. Gardner is an attorney for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press's Local Legal Initiative in Oklahoma.

Five OPA members pre-

pared five-minute presentations for the News Flash session. Presenting their ideas were David Stringer, publisher of The Lawton Constitution; J.D. Meisner, publisher of the Cushing Citizen; Carrie Carberry, advertising manager at the Sequoyah County Times; Rod Serfoss, publisher of the Clinton Daily News; Allie Prater, editor of the Drumright Gusher; and Mark Millsap, publisher of The Norman Transcript.

(See Convention, Page 3)

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From the President

By Mike Strain, Tulsa World
OPA President 2020-2021



The room was so full that people filled every chair and some were standing up in back. All were laughing. At times, I swear I heard people howling.

The bloopers show was back, and Mark Thomas was as hysterical as ever. (The difference between porthole and portal can be much funnier than I would ever have imagined.)

I don't remember a bloopers show so entertaining, and I don't remember an annual convention that was quite so much fun. Maybe that's because it was a great convention, or maybe it's because we didn't get to have one last year. Maybe it was a combination of both.

Whatever the reason, the gathering this month in downtown Oklahoma City was memorable, and I'd like to share a few quick thoughts as my time as president concludes:

1) I want to thank the staff at OPA and OPS. There are a lot of reasons I could thank them, whether it's their work making conventions go so well or their efforts every week of the year when there's not a convention.

Here's what I think is most impressive: They genuinely care about the success of Oklahoma's newspapers. Conscientious folks make a big difference, and that's the type of people I found working in the OPA office in my time serving on the board.

2) A quick word of thanks to state Sen. Roger Thompson, and the three U.S. Representatives — Frank Lucas, Kevin Hern and Stephanie Bice. They spent a few hours with us Saturday morning. They were great sessions, and I really appreciate them making our convention a priority in their busy schedules.

3) During one of the sessions addressing legal issues, Mike Minnis was honored. If you don't know him, just know this: He worked for more than 30 years fighting for newspapers and journalists across the state. He was the point man for OPA's Legal Services Plan. (Quick aside: If you're not an LSP member, you should seriously consider it. One phone call with an attorney before a story publishes can save you what you pay in dues. Even better, it can save you from lots of sleepless nights.)

4) This probably doesn't have to be said, but I'm going to say it anyway: The pandemic sucked. Still can't believe what happened, and I will confess to feeling beaten down at times in the last year (even the last few months).

But something happened at the convention that helped me personally. Pandemic be damned, I got to shake hands with almost every person who won an award. (I'll admit to washing that hand afterwards.)

Getting to briefly share in their celebration was a blessing I won't forget; and seeing what so many accomplished under such trying circumstances was inspiring. It's been awhile since I've felt that way.

I wish I had the right words to convey my deep respect for everyone — award winners or not — who has been serving their community with such dedication. The theme of the convention was "Newspapers Tell the Stories of Hometown Heroes." What local newspapers have done in the last year is heroic, too. Don't ever forget it.

Nelson named publisher of The Ada News



Maurisa Nelson has been promoted from general manager to publisher of The Ada News.

Nelson has served as general manager since 2019 and advertising director since 2011.

The Ada News moved to its new location at 530 E. Main Street while Nelson was general manager. Now that things are opening up after the pandemic, she's looking forward to wider engagement with readers, advertisers and the community.

"My doors are always open," said Nelson. "I want to know what our readers want and how they feel about the changes we have made over the last year and a half."

Dale Brendel, Oklahoma group publisher for the newspaper's parent company CNHI, LLC, said Nelson and the staff made significant improvements during the pandemic.

"Maurisa has navigated the newspaper through the pandemic," Brendel said. "As publisher, she will take on an even stronger role going forward."

Nelson is active in local civic and business organizations. She serves on the Bertha Teague Mid America Classic board and her family attends Crosspointe Church in Ada.

OPA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY WEBINARS

July 9, 1:00 PM, Newspaper Academy Webinar — *90 Minutes of Photo Editing Basics & More for Newspapers and Magazines*
Kevin Slimp has been training newspapers since the early 90s in the best ways to get pictures to "pop" off the page. For more information or to register, newspaperacademy.com/webinar/video-kevin-slimp-basics-of-indesign-for-new-or-newer-users/

July 22, 1:00 PM, OMC Webinar — *Effective Advertising for a Small Business Budget*

Ben Bouslog will show you how to make the most out of the small budgets some of your clients may have. For more information or to register, onlinemediacampus.com/inspire_events/smallbusinessbudget/

For more information and links to register for webinars, visit OkPress.com/events

McAlester News-Capital names Owens as publisher



Reina Owens has been promoted to publisher of the McAlester

News-Capital after serving as general manager the past three years.

Owens has worked at the News-Capital since becoming an advertising executive in 2005. She was named advertising director in 2011 and general manager in 2019.

"I'm excited to continue serving our community, our readers, and advertisers in my expanded position," Owens said. "I want to thank my team for the success we've had in serving and representing our community. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be where I am today."

Dale Brendel, regional Oklahoma publisher for parent company CNHI, LLC, said Owens has proven her leadership skills and

local knowledge in executing the News-Capital's mission with award-winning journalism and to help local businesses prosper.

Owens has been involved in multiple local organizations. She serves on the McAlester Country Club board, and the Pink Ribbon Committee, and previously served on the McAlester Main Street board.

Convention (Continued from Page 1)

After dinner Friday, members played trivia for a chance of bragging rights.

Oklahoma Senator Roger Thompson discussed the state budget Saturday morning, followed by U.S. Reps. Frank Lucas, Kevin Hern and Stephanie Bice who discussed issues affecting Oklahoma and local communities.

Members had the opportunity to pick and choose from eight sessions in the afternoon, featuring an editorial track and a revenue track.

Presenters on the editorial track included Katie-Beth Gardner, RCFP; Kim Poindexter, editor of the Tahlequah Daily Press; David Stringer, The Norman Transcript; Cindy Allen, Enid News & Eagle; Rob Collins, Oklahoma Media Center; Reese Gorman and Mindy Wood, The Norman Transcript; Beau Simmons and Michelle Charles, Stillwater News Press; and Ted Streuli, Paul Monies and Jennifer Palmer from Oklahoma Watch.

Presenting sessions on

the revenue track were Thad Swiderski, eType Services; Jeff Mayo, publisher of the Sequoyah County Times; and Jason Collington, editor of the Tulsa World.

Ice cream was dished up prior to the ever popular Blooper Show, which was standing room only.

The evening concluded with the annual Awards Banquet. All award winners are featured in this month's issue of The Oklahoma Publisher.

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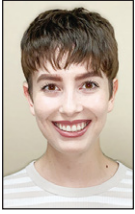
These are questions answered by the attorneys for the OPA Legal Services Plan members in recent months. Newspapers always need timely legal advice on issues related to newspaper publishing.

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See www.OkPress.com/LSP or contact Mark Thomas at (405) 499-0033 or toll-free in Oklahoma 1-888-815-2672 today!



Kelci Hartley joins staff at Clinton Daily News



Kelcie Hartley is the new reporter at the Clinton Daily News.

Hartley is originally from Victorville, Calif. After graduating from California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, Calif., she

applied for a job at the Clinton Daily News.

"I saw the job posting, and I decided to apply for the job because what is the worst that can happen? After hearing more about Clinton, I fell in love with the little town," Hartley said.

Aside from a new adven-

ture, Hartley wanted to move to Clinton because she loves to write and wants to impact and touch people with her writing.

She is looking forward to working for a news outlet where she gets to represent what an honest and truthful reporter looks like working in a small town like Clinton.

Cushing Citizen adds Maddox to staff as reporter



DeAnna Maddox recently joined the staff of the Cushing Citizen as a

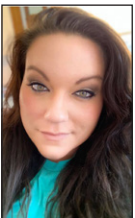
reporter.

Maddox was born in Agra, Oklahoma, just 13 minutes away from Cushing. She graduated with a total of 17 people in her class before moving on to college at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond.

She was only able to attend school for one year and since then has held a variety of jobs. It was at one of those jobs that she met J.D. and MaryLee Meisner, owners and publishers of the Cushing Citizen, and soon after that was offered a job as a reporter, a position she has held since the last week of April.

"Ever since I saw my first story published on our website and in print, I was thrilled," said Maddox.

Northwest Oklahoman promotes Hutson to editor



Jeni Hutson was recently named editor of the Northwest Oklahoman in Arnett.

Hutson has served as assistant editor since December

2019. In her new role, she will help run the office and watch over the creation of the newspaper on a weekly basis.

Dub Wagnon will serve as publisher and editor-in-chief.

Wagnon said from day

one Hutson took the initiative to learn more every day.

"We would like to return to a 16-page paper every week," said Wagnon. "As the pandemic ends, our world is returning to normal."

Dudley named editor of Watonga Republican



Graham Dudley has been named editor of the Watonga Republican, Hinton Record and Geary Star.

Dudley was born and raised in Arlington, Texas.

He crossed the river for college at the University of Oklahoma, where he was a sportswriter for the OU Daily.

After college, Dudley interned for the Oklahoma news site NonDoc.com before accepting a position at the Brownwood Bulletin

in Texas. Most recently, he lived for three years in Salt Lake City where he was a copy editor for the Deseret News.

"I have a lot to learn about the community, but I'm ready to hit the ground running," Dudley said.

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Appeals court sides with Custer County, former sheriff in lawsuit

An appeals court recently upheld a ruling in a case involving former Custer County Sheriff Kenneth Tidwell, a Wisconsin journalism professor and the Open Records Act.

The court ruled that under the law citizens are not entitled to receive any public records, including police reports, via email.

Milwaukee resident A.

Jay Wagner filed the lawsuit through his attorney, Kevin R. Kemper of Norman, after Tidwell refused to email holiday incident reports.

In the recent ruling, the judge determined Tidwell was only required to make the records available for copying or inspecting and must do so in a prompt and reasonable manner.

The appeals court ruling upheld the decision made by Judge Jill Weedon during last summer in the Custer County District Court.

In her opinion, Weedon said the Open Records Act was in need of updating, but it was up to the legislature to do so.

Mark Thomas, executive vice president of the Okla-

homa Press Association, said two bills were filed this legislative session in an attempt to remedy the issue but they didn't get a hearing.

Thomas said OPA would work with government bodies to work out potential issues and "press for passage of legislation next year."

NonDoc sues University of Oklahoma for reports on Boren investigation

The day after NonDoc filed a lawsuit asking a judge to order the University of Oklahoma for reports the university has refused to release for two years, OU associate general counsel Heidi Long sent an additional letter reiterating OU's denial of the request

for records under the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

Long outlined OU's reasoning for withholding the documents, which detail findings about misreporting of donor data and alleged sexual misconduct by former President David Boren, who resigned his professorship the same day OU

denied NonDoc's request for records.

Representing NonDoc in the suit is KatieBeth Gardner, an Oklahoma-based staff attorney for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press.

Gardner said NonDoc's position "remains unchanged."

"The University of Oklahoma violated the Oklahoma Open Records Act by failing to search for and release the Jones Day reports regarding the university's misreporting of alumni donor data and sexual misconduct allegations involving Boren," Gardner said.

Oklahoma Watch sues Epic Charter Schools, seeking emails

Oklahoma Watch and reporter Jennifer Palmer have filed a lawsuit against Epic Charter Schools for release of emails under the Open Records Act.

Palmer requested emails to and from Epic co-founder Ben Harris from Jan. 1, 2019, through July 25, 2020. A spokesperson for Epic responded to the request on Aug. 20, saying the school would produce the records at an estimated cost to Oklahoma Watch of \$40,691.26 for copying, reviewing and redacting the records.

Palmer narrowed her request on Aug. 25 asking for emails from June 20, 2019, to Aug. 30, 2019. Hickman replied in a Sept.

16 email that the cost would be \$1,604 for copy charges and \$3,208 for legal review.

Representing Oklahoma Watch, KatieBeth Gardner, a Tulsa-based attorney with the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, informed Epic that photocopying was unnecessary and that the Open Records Act made no provision for the public to pay for legal work.

"All we're asking for is to see documents the public owns," said Ted Streuli, executive editor of the non-profit Oklahoma Watch. "Those emails belong to the public and we intend to make sure the public knows what's in them."

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Judged ruled parts of body cam video in Pridgeon case be made public

A Muskogee County judge recently ruled that portions of body cam video worn by Muskogee police at a homicide scene must be made public in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Records Act.

The body cam video was captured on Feb. 2, when six people were killed inside a southeast Muskogee residence. Prosecutors allege Jarron Deajon Pridgeon, 25, shot and killed his brother and five children ranging in age from 2 to 9 years.

District Judge Bret Smith ordered the release of body cam video he believed furthered the ORA's objectives.

Just days after the Feb. 2 homicides, District Attorney Orvil Loge filed a motion asking the court to block public access to the recordings of the 911 calls and body cam videos.

The Muskogee Phoenix challenged efforts to keep

the recordings from being disclosed to the public. KatieBeth Gardner, who represented the Phoenix as part of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press' Local Legal Initiative in Oklahoma, secured the release of the 911 calls and partial release of the body cam video.

"There is really no basis for the wholesale blocking of this body camera footage under the Open Records Act because it is a public record," said Gardner. "There are no specific mechanisms that would block the release of a public record because it might be used as evidence in a criminal case."

Smith instructed City Attorney Matthew Beese to present to the court within 10 days a compilation video that satisfies the criterion identified by the court, which will review the video and approve its release.

Postal Service plans to increase rates

The United States Postal Service announced a planned adjustment of postage rates as of Aug. 29, 2021, for the public and commercial mail users.

For community newspapers using Periodicals mail to reach readers, the average rate increase will be nearly 9%. The First-Class Stamp will move from 55 cents to 58 cents.

The rate increase is part of a new USPS business plan that also includes a weakening of service standards for mail that is moving across the country.

A coalition of newspapers, printers, retailers and others, including the National Newspaper Asso-

ciation, are opposing the increase in postage rates.

Brett Wesner, chair of National Newspaper Association and president of Wesner Publications, Cordell, Okla., said the rate announcement was grim news for community newspapers that have been fielding months of complaints that subscribers are not receiving their copies on time.

Wesner said that NNA has continued to support postal reform legislation and has endorsed the proposed Postal Service Reform Act of 2021, introduced by Reps. Carolyn Maloney, D-New York, and James Comer, R-Kentucky.

In Memoriam

June 2020 to May 2021

Commemorated at the Oklahoma Press Association
Annual Convention in Oklahoma City, OK
June 11, 2021

In accordance with membership wishes, this list includes only those who were either longtime newspaper employees still engaged in the trade at the time of death, or those who had, though retired, made newspaper work their principal occupation.

Clay W. Allen
Wagoner County American-Tribune

Thomas Earl Bailey
McAlester News-Capital

Rita Massey Baker
Bristow News

Sherry L. Barby
Harper County Journal

Douglas Allan Davis
The Ada News

Kenneth Wayne Dickerson
Piedmont-Surrey Gazette

Elizabeth Peggy Bowen DeShields
The Oklahoman & Times

Hall Franklin Duncan
University of Central Oklahoma

Marty Katherine 'Kay' Dyer
The Oklahoman & Times

Yvonne Marie (Lacy) Evans
The Perkins Journal

Wilbert Ecily Hale
Enid News & Eagle

Neville Lavon (Reeder) Hancock
Hobart Democrat-Chief

Bob Henline
The Cordell Beacon

Cecilie Walker Henning
The Cleveland American

Robert Lyle Holding
The Daily Oklahoman

Janis Wimberly Hruby
The Duncan Banner

Brandon Ray Johnson
The Duncan Banner

James H. 'Jim' Keisman
The Seminole Producer

John Link
Vinita Daily Journal

Melba Lovelace
The Oklahoman

Jessie Riogelon Mangaliman
Muskogee Phoenix

Larry Joe Marcy
Durant Democrat

Sally Maxwell
Sequoyah County Times

Rebecca Ann 'Becky' Mayo
Sequoyah County Times

Jerry McConnell
The Oklahoman

William David McCullough
OPA and LSP Attorney

Kenneth Darrell Morrow
The Oklahoman

Mae Musgrove
Shidler Review

Richard 'Dick' Newman
Newspaper Printing Corp., Tulsa

Karla Paxton
Mangum Star-News

John Bennett Pickens
The Oklahoman

Anthony 'Tony' Lee Pippen
Ada Evening News

B. Wayne Ratliff
Johnston County Capital-Democrat

Mary McKinney Rice
The Duncan Banner

C. Dennis Schick
Arkansas Press Association

Ray Soldan
The Oklahoman

Lannie Joe Severs
Sapulpa Herald

Robert Lee Walker
The Afton American

Lynda Carol Watkins
The Cordell Beacon

Evelyn Sue Whatley
The Oklahoman

William White
Enid News & Eagle

Fritz Wade Wirt
Oklahoma State University

William 'Bill' Lewis Wright
Skiatook News

Anne Marie Zimmerman
The Ada News

DEATHS

JAMES F. FIENUP, long-time publisher of the Spiro Graphic, died June 4, 2021. He was 81.

Fienup worked in the newspaper industry for 54 years, starting in 1967.

Known to everyone as Jim and many times referred to as "Scoop," Fienup was always on the beat to get the story first.

He earned two degrees from the University of Oklahoma in Journalism

and Communications. As a student intern at the University of Oklahoma, he covered the JFK assassination in Dallas, Texas, in November 1963.

He worked for many newspapers and publishing companies including the Russell Daily News in Kansas, and the Mansfield News-Journal in Ohio. In Oklahoma, Fienup worked for the Poteau News & Sun and the Chickasha Star

before returning to LeFlore County and investing in Poteau Today, a weekly newspaper where he served as editor and publisher.

In November 1994, Fienup purchased the Spiro Graphic and made Spiro his home for the past 27 years.

He is survived by his brother Alois J. Fienup, Jr., of Marshall Town, Iowa; two nephews, Timothy and Mark A., and one niece, Cynthia Hunt.

VANCE TRIMBLE, an American journalist, winner of a Pulitzer Prize and member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame, died June 16, 2021, in his hometown of Wewoka. He was 107.

He received a Pulitzer in 1960 for his reporting on nepotism and corruption in Congress as a reporter for the Scripps Howard News Service in Washington, D.C.

Trimble was born in Harrison, Ark., on July 6, 1913. His family moved to Okemah in 1920, then to Wewoka in 1929.

In high school, he was editor of the school newspaper and a full-time reporter for the Wewoka Times-Democrat. At age 18, he married Elzene Trimble on Jan. 9, 1932. The two met in high school when they both worked on the school newspaper.

During the Depression, Trimble worked for several Oklahoma newspapers including the Seminole Morning News, Seminole Producer, Okmulgee Times, and Muskogee Phoenix. He also worked as financial editor of the Tulsa Tribune, and as editor of the Maud Enterprise.

In 1939, he joined Scripps Howard as a copy editor for the Houston Press. Within six months, Trimble was promoted to city editor. He served in the Army during World War II for two years, and when he returned was appointed managing editor for the Houston Press. In 1955, he was transferred to the Scripps Howard Washington bureau as news editor.

In 1960, Trimble was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, the Sigma Delta Chi Distinguished Correspondence

Record for Washington coverage, and the Raymond Clapper Award – referred to as the "triple crown". Trimble stayed in DC until 1963 when he was appointed editor of the Kentucky Post in Covington, Kentucky.

Trimble's wife, Elzene, died on July 5, 1999. The two were married for 67 years. Trimble constructed a monument to his wife, dubbed the Oakwood Singing Tower, where she was buried in Wewoka. He moved back to Wewoka to be closer to his wife, even in death.

Trimble also published several books since leaving the newspaper business.

He was preceded in death by his wife Elzene in 1999, and their daughter Carol Ann Nordheimer in 2021.

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Remembering our friends & colleagues who died the previous year

John L. Clabes
March 27, 2020

Sharon Ann Dean
March 16, 2020

Ron Henderson
March 6, 2020

Fred B. Hilton Jr.
March 3, 2020

Marguerite Babb
April 28, 2020

Dennie Hall
April 17, 2020

Jake Norman McDonald
April 1, 2020

Nancy Janice 'Jan' O'Leary
April 23, 2020

Frederick David Seaton
April 18, 2020

OPA members reflect on experiences at



It was good to see colleagues I haven't seen in quite a while, as well as meeting new ones of whom I became Facebook friends by the end of the night. The Awards Banquet had great food, and I was honored to get third place in column writing. I also wish to congratulate all the winners on the night.

David Seeley, Editor
Poteau Daily News



It was great to gather in-person again at the OPA Convention. All newspapers have had a tough year, and I was very impressed with the way so many of our community newspapers stepped up to help their communities during the height of the pandemic. In all the presentations I attended, I heard the continued passion from our newspapers to support their communities. Community newspapers remain strong in Oklahoma!

Cindy Allen, Publisher
Enid News & Eagle



At the convention I always feel I am among friends. And never more so than this year, with heroic friends who have worked harder than ever during the pandemic to keep their communities informed and engaged. It was a great couple days. Thanks to OPA leadership and staff for making our time together in 2021 better than ever.

Ed Kelley, Dean
Gaylord College, OU



These conventions have always been valuable, and I think my first one was in 1984. But after a year of 'forced separation,' at a time when it would have been really beneficial to get together with our friends and the only people who really understand what we go through, it was especially rewarding. The sessions are always good. But it's even better seeing old friends.

David Stringer, Publisher
The Lawton Constitution



There were several highlights for me. It was a great convention. The OPA staff is top notch. As is always the case, the Bloopers were hilarious. But for me the highlight was getting to introduce my former business partner and longtime friend, Mark Codner, as the Beachy Musselman Award Winner. I got so choked up listening to his video that I forgot to introduce my own son, John Denny, for his presentation of the President's Award.

John D. Montgomery, Publisher
The Purcell Register

I enjoyed visiting with other newspaper people and watching our new, incoming editor learn more about the newspaper industry in the wonderful variety of sessions we attended. The OPA staff and our board worked hard to put the convention on and it was well worth the time and money we invested to come. Thank you for 30 years of GREAT service to me as I've served in my community. The annual convention helps to motivate and keep us on track.

Melissa Grace, Editor
Ringling Eagle

Sometimes it seems like operating a small town newspaper is an isolating job, however getting to network with such a great group of people who want you to succeed renews the importance and community needed to thrive in our small town publications.

Scott Renfro, Incoming Editor, Ringling Eagle



The best thing was being able to reconnect with industry colleagues I hadn't seen since at least 2018, since I hadn't been able to attend in 2019, either. The worst thing was missing several of them. I'm just so proud of ALL of us for working our tails off to keep print journalism alive.

Kim Poindexter, Editor
Tahlequah Daily Press



It was a fantastic opportunity for my students to rub elbows with and to learn from amazing journalists. Their excitement about the profession grew 100-fold. They and I loved it!

Markus Zindelo, Adviser
OCCC Pioneer



I believe that we leave convention with a renewed sense of strength and belief in the value of the service that we provide all while gaining valuable resources and connections. To echo OPA President Mike Strain, 'Convention is like a family reunion.'

Shauna Belyeu, Gen. Mgr.
The Eufaula Indian Journal



My favorite moment was awards night. Seeing the fantastic work produced under such difficult circumstances was truly inspiring. Oklahoma is blessed to have so many people who care so much about their communities.

Mike Strain
OPA President

June 11-12 Convention in Oklahoma City



I had never been to an OPA convention before, but now, I can't wait for next year's. I'm a college student, and being around the journalists who have inspired me in this field was incredible. My newspaper won some awards, and being able to cheer on my friends and teammates as they won theirs was a feeling unlike any other.

Jordan Green, Editor-in-Chief,
Northwestern News



I think my favorite specific experience was watching our editor, Allie Prater, walk up on stage not once, but twice, to accept first place awards. She continues to impress us with her work. With that said, it was fantastic to see friends and colleagues that I hadn't seen for at least two years and to make new connections and friendships. Our thanks have to go out to the staff at OPA for the hard work they put in to this incredible event.

J. D. Meisner, Publisher
Cushing Citizen



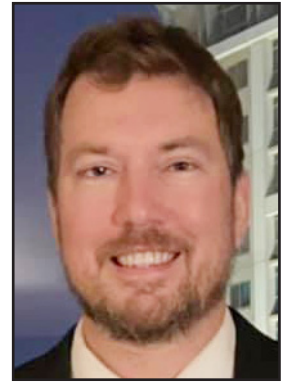
I left feeling excited and inspired for the future of my journalism career. I can't wait for the day I will walk away from the convention with an award of my own.

Mackenzie E. Crosby, Intern
The Ada News



I found the break-out sessions useful and, of course, the bloopers were great. The best part for me, though, was just seeing and talking to people who had been through the same things as me the past year. I got to meet more new people this year than any other conference I had been to previously and the general feeling of the conference was much more of camaraderie than that of competition.

Todd Brooks, Publisher
The Comanche Times



The awards banquet is always the highlight of the convention. Always a great atmosphere with a room full of peers, mentors and rivals. Meeting new people and seeing old faces is always a good time. Personally, seeing an old friend, with a long newspaper career, attend her first banquet was the highlight of this year's event. Her excitement to get dressed up and accept one award seemed to far surpass that of some regular Sequoyah winners.

Ryan Horton, Editor
Choctaw Times



My best experience was getting to network with great individuals in the newspaper industry. As an award winner, I also loved the presentation of the awards banquet.

Nicholas Dill, Student Reporter
Northwestern News



It was great to see everyone from my 25 year absence in Oklahoma newspapers. I really enjoyed the sessions and felt they were spot on for the support we need out in our markets.

Brenda Adams, Ad. Director,
Muskogee Phoenix



Genuinely, just being able to see so many friends after a long absence was really the most special part of the convention.

Beau Simmons, Editor
Stillwater News Press



I always enjoy attending OPA's convention every June. This year, I took a lot away from the editorial session on open records, hosted by KatieBeth Gardner. It's an important topic for every journalist to grow familiar with.

Art Haddaway, Editor
Owasso Reporter



This was my first convention as a full-time reporter. Being able to meet new people and celebrate with old friends was a memorable experience.

Ashlynd Huffman,
Crime Reporter
Stillwater News Press

Jeff Funk receives Milt Phillips Award



Jeff Funk (right), retired publisher of the Enid News & Eagle, receives the Milt Phillips Award at the OPA Convention. The award was presented by OPA President Mike Strain. The Milt Phillips Award is the highest distinction given by the Oklahoma Press Association.

Jeff Funk, former publisher of the Enid News & Eagle, received the Oklahoma Press Association's Milt Phillips Award at the OPA Convention in Oklahoma City.

Funk joined the News & Eagle in 2001 as executive editor. He was then promoted to general manager and publisher.

Prior to coming to Enid, he served in news management positions at five other daily newspapers:

the Hutchinson News and Parsons Sun in Kansas, and in Nebraska at the Grand Island Independent, North Platte Telegraph and Beatrice Daily Sun.

During his tenure as publisher at the Enid News & Eagle, the newspaper added several publications and events including Etown, Enid's lifestyle magazine; Candy Cane Cash, a popular shop-in-Enid promotion; breaking news text alerts; Ekids; Enid Newcomers Guide; North-

west Oklahoma Medical Directory and other specialty magazines.

The newspaper also raised more than \$10,000 each year for local charities and promoted the annual Pillar of the Plains recognition of local and regional volunteer leaders.

As a senior publisher for Community Newspaper Holdings, Funk had administrative responsibility for up to 11 other Oklahoma publications.

In addition to his pub-

lisher role, Funk has been active in community activities, serving as a board member or officer of the Greater Enid Chamber of Commerce, Cherokee Strip Community Foundation, Enid United Way, David Allen Memorial Ballpark, Enid Rotary Club, Willow View United Methodist Church and Enid Public School Foundation.

In his video acceptance speech, Funk said people care about their local newspaper.

"Community journalism has two components — community service and quality journalism.

"Both are critical. I've tried to live out both in my career," Funk said.

"People tell you how the newspaper has impacted their life and that's what's great about community journalism.

"I thank you for this incredible honor. And for those people who are actively writing and editing and photographing and selling and printing and posting and tweeting, bless you. Keep it up. Your community, your state, your nation need what you are doing now more than ever before."

Funk served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association in 2014.

About the Milt Phillips Award

The H. Milt Phillips Award is the highest honor given by the Oklahoma Press Association. The OPA Board of Directors

selects the recipient based on publishing a high-quality newspaper; contribution to the profession and the newspaper industry; years of service to the community, state and nation in a variety of volunteer activities and

strong love and dedication to the family. The award was established in 1978 by the OPA Board of Directors to recognize those they felt gave the same quality of service to family, community, country and newspapers as had

Milt Phillips, longtime publisher of the Seminole Producer. Phillips was active in the Oklahoma Press Association, holding several offices including president in 1954.

Mark Codner receives Musselman Award



Mark Codner (right), publisher of The Newcastle Pacer, receives the Beachy Musselman Award from his longtime friend John D. Montgomery at the OPA Convention. Montgomery is a trustee on the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation board and publisher of The Purcell Register.

Mark Codner is the 2021 recipient of the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation's Beachy Musselman Award.

The award was presented June 12 at the OPA Convention in Oklahoma City.

An award-winning journalist, known for professionalism, ethics and community building, Codner was recently named publisher of The Newcastle Pacer.

His journalism career

spans more than 30 years. He and his wife, Sherry, were publishers/owners of The Madill Record and The Texoman from 1994 to 2015. Before that, he worked in various editor positions at the Tulsa World, Yukon Review/Mustang News, Collinsville News, Skiatook Journal, Coweta American and Purcell Register.

He is a 1988 graduate of the University of Central

Oklahoma with a degree in newspaper journalism.

In 2016, Codner was named news editor of The Edmond Sun where he served until the newspaper closed in 2020. At the Edmond Sun, he implemented several new projects such as highlighting the Teachers of the Year, and a series of articles reporting the efforts behind raising awareness and money for Alzheimer's research.

Codner is the recipient of numerous awards and has been a member of multiple community organizations including the Marshall County Economic Development Committee, Madill Lions Club and a board member of the non-profit Four Square Hospice.

His passion for the newspaper industry is shown through his commitment to the many journalists he's trained, and the communities he has been involved in.

In his acceptance video, Codner gave thanks to his wife.

"I married her when she was 19," he said. "She became a newspaper publisher when she was 23."

He also thanked his daughters, Sarah and Jordan, for putting up with the long hours he and Sherry worked.

"I've had a long journalism career, and it continues thanks to my long-time family friends the Montgomerys," said Codner.

"Last but not least, thanks to the Oklahoma Press Association for aiding in my career all the way. They've always been there for me, for every journalist in the state. It's an outstanding organization."

He also thanked the family of Beachy Musselman for making the award possible.

About the Beachy Musselman Award

Presented annually by the Oklahoma Newspaper Foundation, the Beachy Musselman Award recognizes a journalist for his

or her contribution to the field of printed journalism or its related field. The award, established in 1969 to recognize and encourage quality journalism in practice, education and research, is named after the late Norman

Beachy Musselman, former editor and general manager of the Shawnee News-Star. Musselman also served as president of the Oklahoma Press Association in 1961. Any professional journalist is eligible for nomina-

tion. Extra consideration is given on the basis of service to the community, initiative in reporting, photographing or interpreting the news.

Oklahoma Press Association inducts new members into Half, Quarter Century Clubs

John M. Wylie II new member of Half Century Club

John M. Wylie II was inducted into the Oklahoma Press Association's Half Century Club on June 12 during the OPA Convention.

Wylie has picked up hundreds of awards in his 51-year career, including a share of a Pulitzer Prize.

His investigative work and commentary have helped ban a pesticide, block development of a phony Biblical theme park, derail a gubernatorial campaign and expose a national political payoff scandal.

In 1984, he and his wife, Faith, purchased the Oologah Lake Leader, a weekly newspaper in Oklahoma. Under their leadership, it was named the state's best newspaper in its circulation division 17 times.

After selling the Lake Leader, Wylie founded and became president of Wylie Communications, Inc., which provides crisis communications, public relations and political con-

sulting on media and advertising issues.

Wylie started his career as a correspondent in 1972 for the Des Moines Register and United Press International.

He joined the Kansas City Star in 1974 as an intern and was named its first full-time energy and environment writer in 1975. Wylie's first Pulitzer Prize nomination in 1976 covered a series on pesticide misuse that led to a federal ban on one chemical and new restrictions on aerial pesticide applications in Kansas and Oklahoma. He was part of the Star team whose coverage of the Hyatt Regency skywalk disaster won a Pulitzer Prize in 1982.

He was a charter member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, was president of three local chapters and deputy regional director of the Society of Professional Journalists, and is a member the Oklahoma Press Association, National Newspaper



John M. Wylie II (right) accepts Half Century Club plaque from OPA President Mike Strain. The award was presented June 12 at the OPA Convention in Oklahoma City.

Association, Investigative Reporters and Editors and FOI Oklahoma.

"Journalists must fight for truth and transparency in government. I spent 50 years working nationwide to protect the 1st Amend-

ment and rights of all Americans," Wylie said in his acceptance video at the OPA Convention. "Journalists protect the nation's future. Let's all do what the founders asked us to do."

OPA QUARTER AND HALF CENTURY CLUBS

Being a member of any profession for 25 or 50 years is not only a personal achievement, it is an important milestone that should be recognized. That's why the Oklahoma Press Association recognizes the contributions of those who have served in the newspaper industry by inducting them into the Half Century and Quarter Century Clubs.

Anyone may make nominations for the Quarter or Half Century Clubs. Self-nominations also are acceptable. New members are inducted during OPA's Annual Convention. To submit nominations in either Club, visit okpress.com/page/century-clubs. Nominations must include a biography detailing years of service to the newspaper industry and a color photograph of the nominee.

Quarter Century Club inducts six new members during annual OPA Convention in Oklahoma City

Six new members were inducted into the OPA Quarter Century Club at the OPA Convention.

Following is a brief bio on each of the 2021 inductees.

RONNIE CLAY

Ronnie Clay began his career with The Journal Record in February 1995 as a legislative service proofreader before accepting a public notices position with the newspaper in June of the same year.

He soon made his way to the newsroom, where he has worked for more than 20 years as a copy editor/web editor.

His responsibilities include copy editing stories for The Journal Record and its special publications, updating the website and coordinating print layout with page designers.

ROB COLLINS

Rob Collins began his newspaper career at The Norman Transcript before serving as managing editor at The Edmond Sun and as editor-in-chief of the weekly Oklahoma Gazette.

In 2012, he returned to his hometown of Enid to serve as executive editor of the Enid News & Eagle and was appointed editor of The Norman Transcript in 2020. He also served as a regional editor for CNHI. In January 2021, Collins joined the Local Media Association (LMA) as the project lead for the Oklahoma Media Center, a journalism collaborative of 20 state newsrooms.

PATRICK FORD

Patrick Ford, an Okmulgee native, began working for the Okmulgee Daily Times after graduating from Okmulgee High School in 1986.

During his career with the newspaper, he has served as composing room supervisor, graphic designer, head photographer, sports editor, news reporter and assistant editor.

For the past three years, Ford has



New inductees into the Oklahoma Press Association Quarter Century Club. Back: Patrick Ford, Okmulgee Times; Scott Rains, The Lawton Constitution; and Rob Collins, Oklahoma Media Center. Seated: Jessica Danker Mitchell, The Journal Record, and Ronnie Clay, The Journal Record. (Not pictured Kristi Dawn Hayes.)

served as a news editor of the Okmulgee Times.

KRISTI DAWN HAYES

Kristi Dawn Hayes worked freelance for the Panhandle Times while attending Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell.

She moved to Ponca City in 1996 and was hired as the education editor at The Ponca City News. In 2008, she was promoted to managing editor and held that position until 2020.

She is a graduate of Leadership Ponca City and recently completed a workshop offered through the Poynter Institute.

JESSICA DANKER MITCHELL

Jessica Danker Mitchell has spent her entire career with The Journal Record.

She was hired as a staff reporter in 1994. In addition to reporting on the energy and banking industries, Mitchell served five years as wire editor,

editing copy and designing pages for the daily newspaper.

From 2002 to 2020 she served as special publications editor, overseeing production of more than 20 special publications a year. She also oversees research for The Journal Record's Book of Lists publication, which is a compilation of businesses in various industries.

SCOTT RAINS

Scott Rains joined the staff of The Lawton Constitution as a staff writer and photographer in April 2005, where he remains today.

Prior to that, he was publisher and editor of The Cyril News. Rains also worked as a pressman at the Edmond Evening Sun for three years.

At The Lawton Constitution, Rains covers all of the southwest portion of Oklahoma but his primary duties are in the "cop shop" and courts. In recent months, he and another Constitution staff member have joined forces to produce the Redder Dirt: An OK Crime Cast true crime podcast.

2020 SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNERS



Standing: David Stringer, publisher of The Lawton Constitution (Division 1); Rusty Ferguson, publisher of The Cleveland American (Division 5); Art Haddaway, editor of the Owasso Reporter (Division 6); David Bublitz, adviser of The Cameron University Collegian (College Division); and Gary Jackson, publisher of the Tahlequah Daily Press (Division 3). Seated: Beau Simmons, editor of the Stillwater News Press (Division 2); Erin Thompson, publisher of the El Reno Tribune (Semi- and Tri-Weeklies); Amie Remer, editor of the Eastern Times-Register (Division 7); and John Denny Montgomery, co-publisher of The Purcell Register (Division 4).

DIVISION 1 – DAILIES, Circ. more than 6,200

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

The Lawton Constitution

NEWS CONTENT

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript
SECOND PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

LAYOUT & DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript
THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

ADVERTISING

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle
THIRD PLACE: The Norman Transcript

EDITORIAL WRITING

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle
THIRD PLACE: The Norman Transcript

PHOTOGRAPHY

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution
SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript
THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle

SPORTS COVERAGE

FIRST PLACE: Enid News & Eagle
SECOND PLACE: The Norman Transcript
THIRD PLACE: The Lawton Constitution

SALES PROMOTION

FIRST PLACE: The Norman Transcript,
"The Pet Issue"
SECOND PLACE: The Lawton Constitution,
"Shop Local. Shop Strong."

THIRD PLACE: Enid News & Eagle, "Candy Cane Cash"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

FIRST PLACE: The Lawton Constitution,
"Community Coloring Challenge"
SECOND PLACE: Enid News & Eagle,
"Homelessness series"
THIRD PLACE: The Norman Transcript,
"Changes to city mask mandate after student
house party coverage"

NEWS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Scott Rains, The Lawton
Constitution, "Sisters tell story"
SECOND PLACE: Gary Reddin, The Lawton
Constitution, "No means no"
THIRD PLACE: Alexander Ewald, Enid News &
Eagle, "Mask mandate passes"

FEATURE STORY

FIRST PLACE: Scott Rains, The Lawton
Constitution, "Firefighter takes upperhand in
fight for his life due to COVID-19"
SECOND PLACE: Alexander Ewald, Enid News
& Eagle, "Homelessness series: 'Ruined for
the rest of us'"
THIRD PLACE: Scott Rains, The Lawton
Constitution, "Brazzel celebrated at the end
of his 45-year shift"

SPORTS STORY

FIRST PLACE: Glen Brockenbush, The Lawton
Constitution, "Does Redskins decision signal
change in OK?"
SECOND PLACE: Bruce Campbell, Enid News
& Eagle, "Hot start ... sudden stop; NOC's
Ambren Voitik"
THIRD PLACE: Glen Brockenbush, The Lawton
Constitution, "Not everyone gets Kobe
treatment"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING (Combined with Division 2)

FIRST PLACE: Ashlynd Huffman, Stillwater
News Press, "Lack of prosecution for sexual
assaults and rapes in Payne County"
SECOND PLACE: Kim McConnell, The Lawton
Constitution, "Capital Improvements
Program"
THIRD PLACE: Alexander Ewald, Enid News
& Eagle, "Enid mask mandate and related
recall petition"

COLUMN WRITING

FIRST PLACE: Jeff Mullin, Enid News & Eagle
SECOND PLACE: Dave Ruthenberg,
Enid News & Eagle
THIRD PLACE: Gary Reddin, The Lawton
Constitution

SMALL SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Luke Garis, Enid News & Eagle,
"Land Run Steakhouse"
SECOND PLACE: Belinda Darnell and Kayla
Durham, The Lawton Constitution, "Brady's
Design Center"
THIRD PLACE: Kathy Young, Enid News &
Eagle, "Rowdy Stickhorse"

LARGE SPACE AD

FIRST PLACE: Belinda Darnell and Kayla
Durham, The Lawton Constitution, "Discount
Foods Thanksgiving"
SECOND PLACE: Kathy Young, Enid News &
Eagle, "81 Ranch"
THIRD PLACE: Cindy Wright, Debbie Sinderson
and Toni Wilson, The Lawton Constitution,
"Classic Lawton Chevrolet Cares"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman
Transcript, "Protest for justice"

SECOND PLACE: Billy Hefton, Enid News
& Eagle, "Woman rescued by Enid Fire
Department after tree crashes through
trailer"

THIRD PLACE: Michael Pope, The Lawton
Constitution, "Fire destroys Cache houses"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Michael Pope, The Lawton
Constitution, "Little girl kisses her mini
Hereford heifer"
SECOND PLACE: Michael Pope, The Lawton
Constitution, "Full moon behind church
before Easter"
THIRD PLACE: Billy Hefton, Enid News &
Eagle, "Icicles hang from a Halloween
skeleton"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

FIRST PLACE: Billy Hefton, Enid News & Eagle,
"Garber players celebrate state win"
SECOND PLACE: Kyle Phillips, The Norman
Transcript, "KU quarterback tries to leap over
OU defense"
THIRD PLACE: Michael Pope, The Lawton
Constitution, "Sunset at MacArthur v. Noble
game"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

FIRST PLACE: Sonya Bilovecky, Dee Ann
Patterson and Cindy Wright, The Lawton
Constitution
SECOND PLACE: Joe Malan, Enid News &
Eagle
THIRD PLACE: David Christy, Enid News &
Eagle

DIVISION 2 – DAILIES, Circ. 3,000 to 4,700

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER Stillwater News Press

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: Muskogee Phoenix
Second Place: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
Third Place: Stillwater News Press

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
Second Place: Muskogee Phoenix
Third Place: The Shawnee News-Star

ADVERTISING

First Place: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
Second Place: Muskogee Phoenix
Third Place: The Shawnee News-Star

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: Muskogee Phoenix
Second Place: The Ardmoreite
Third Place: Stillwater News Press

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
Second Place: Stillwater News Press
Third Place: The Shawnee News-Star

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: Stillwater News Press
Second Place: Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise
Third Place: The Shawnee News-Star

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: The Shawnee News-Star, "2020 Wish You Were Here - Discover Shawnee"
Second Place: Stillwater News Press, "Readers Choice Best of Stillwater"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: Stillwater News Press, "Help for Stillwater Medical Center"
Second Place: The Shawnee News-Star, "Best of Preps 2020 awards"

NEWS STORY

First Place: Michelle Charles, Stillwater News Press, "Tumbleweed owner addresses Weedstock worries"
Second Place: Michelle Charles, Stillwater News Press, "Waiting game"
Third Place: Kim Archer, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "Bartlesville hospital's front-line health care professionals get vaccine"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Ashlynd Huffman, Stillwater News Press, "Coping with crisis: Coronavirus compared to Great Depression"
Second Place: Cathy Spaulding, Muskogee Phoenix, "Blair remembered in words, in song"
Third Place: Vicky O. Misa, The Shawnee News-Star, "Kayak Club: Activity picking up at Twin Lakes"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Mike Tupa, Bartlesville Examiner-Enterprise, "A remarkable man: Al Bunge"
Second Place: Jimmy Gillispie, Stillwater News Press, "NCAA drops hammer on Cowboy basketball"
Third Place: Brian Johnson, The Shawnee News-Star, "Shawnee coach Arthur glad about long-awaited announcement of Sutton's induction"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Ashlynd Huffman, Stillwater News Press, "Lack of prosecution for sexual assaults and rapes in Payne County"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: D.E. Smoot, Muskogee Phoenix
Second Place: Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press
Third Place: Edwyna Synar, Muskogee Phoenix

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Laura Watts, The Journal Record, "Scissortail Waste Solutions"
Second Place: Laura Watts, The Journal Record, "Jesus House"
Third Place: Laura Watts, The Journal Record, "Oklahoma History Center"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Ashlynd Huffman, Stillwater News Press, "Standoff ends in Stillwater man's arrest"

Second Place: Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press, "Police officer talks with young man"
Third Place: Cathy Spaulding, Muskogee Phoenix, "Racially insensitive post leads to apology"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Cathy Spaulding, Muskogee Phoenix, "Celebrating veteran on 100th birthday"
Second Place: Michelle Charles, Stillwater News Press, "High school color guard practices spins"
Third Place: Ronn Rowland, Muskogee Phoenix, "Man enjoys freedom with new prosthetic hand"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press, "Spencer Sanders dives toward the end zone against Iowa State"
Second Place: Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press, "Wrestler jumps into coach's arms after winning championship"
Third Place: Jason Elmquist, Stillwater News Press, "Stillwater loses football game to Choctaw"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Tina Bridenstine, The Shawnee News-Star, "December 12"
Second Place: Tanner Holubar, Stillwater News Press, "April 1"
Third Place: Tina Bridenstine, The Shawnee News-Star, "February 28"

DIVISION 3 – DAILIES, Circ. less than 3,000

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER Tahlequah Daily Press

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: Tahlequah Daily Press
Second Place: McAlester News-Capital
Third Place: The Ada News

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: The Ada News
Second Place: Tahlequah Daily Press
Third Place: McAlester News-Capital

ADVERTISING

First Place: McAlester News-Capital
Second Place: Tahlequah Daily Press
Third Place: The Ada News

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: Tahlequah Daily Press
Second Place: McAlester News-Capital

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: The Ada News
Second Place: McAlester News-Capital
Third Place: Tahlequah Daily Press

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: The Ada News
Second Place: Tahlequah Daily Press
Third Place: The Claremore Daily Progress

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: McAlester News-Capital, "Football Preview"

Second Place: Tahlequah Daily Press, "Newcomers Guide"
Third Place: The Ada News, "Readers Choice"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: McAlester News-Capital, "Angel Tree"
Second Place: The Ada News, "Breast Cancer Awareness Month"
Third Place: Tahlequah Daily Press, "Community Spirit, Everyday Heroes"

NEWS STORY

First Place: Jeff Cali, The Ada News, "Local restaurant wading through tough times"
Second Place: Grant Crawford, Tahlequah Daily Press, "NHS loses residency program accreditation"
Third Place: James Beaty, McAlester News-Capital, "Ekklesia of Oklahoma founder alleges Sen. Boggs threatened him"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Skinner speaks out about racial injustice"
Second Place: James Beaty, McAlester News-Capital, "Bebbo: Schooling the blues"
Third Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Kujawa turns bodybuilding hobby into passion"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress, "A loving gesture: Mike Darden gives daughter Kylee lasting sports memory"
Second Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Like father, like son: Matt, Scott Walton celebrate 25th anniversary of father-son racing program"

Third Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Claremore track runners reflect on Moore tragedy"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Kevin Green and Duane DaPron, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Effect of COVID-19 on Rogers State University athletics"
Second Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Local football coaches' thoughts on COVID-19 and its impact on football season"
Third Place: Derrick James, McAlester News-Capital, "More questions than answers' after McGirt ruling"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: Jeff Cali, The Ada News
Second Place: Cindy Byrd
Third Place: Kevin Green, The Claremore Daily Progress

SMALL SPACE AD

First Place: Jana Weddle, McAlester News-Capital, "Alamo Liquor"
Second Place: Jill Hundley, McAlester News-Capital, "Honey Beene"
Third Place: Samantha Spears, LeaAnn Wells and Maurisa Nelson, The Ada News, "Platinum Custom Detailing LLC"

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Jana Weddle, McAlester News-Capital, "Southeast Clinic"
Second Place: Samantha Spears, LeaAnn Wells and Maurisa Nelson, The Ada News, "Waddell Vineyards"
Third Place: Jana Weddle, McAlester News-Capital, "Kennedy EyeCare"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Grant Crawford, Tahlequah Daily Press, "Trump at the BOK"
Second Place: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "2020: The Year in Pictures"
Third Place: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Vanoss school students in masks"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Fireworks of the Battle of the Kevins"
Second Place: Adrian O'Hanlon III, McAlester News-Capital, "Preparing bags for Bookbag Giveaway"
Third Place: Grant Crawford, Tahlequah Daily Press, "River otter moves in at Three Forks"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Jay Lederman, The Claremore Daily Progress, "Claremore senior makes an acrobatic catch between Pryor defenders"
Second Place: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Latta's Collins breaks Bowen's record for most wins"
Third Place: Richard Barron, The Ada News, "Vanoss coach celebrates overtime win against Latta"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Dawnal Hill, McAlester News-Capital, "March 25"
Second Place: Samantha Spears, The Ada News, "May 21"
Third Place: Grant Crawford, Tahlequah Daily Press, "February 26"

SEMI- AND TRI-WEEKLIES

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER El Reno Tribune

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: Yukon Review
Second Place: Okmulgee Times
Third Place: Sequoyah County Times

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: El Reno Tribune
Second Place: Woodward News
Third Place: Yukon Review

ADVERTISING

First Place: Okmulgee Times
Second Place: Henryetta Free-Lance
Third Place: Woodward News

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: El Reno Tribune
Second Place: Woodward News
Third Place: The Duncan Banner

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: El Reno Tribune
Second Place: Henryetta Free-Lance
Third Place: Woodward News

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: El Reno Tribune
Second Place: Okmulgee Times
Third Place: The Duncan Banner

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: Sequoyah County Times,
"Retirement Fair"

Second Place: Okmulgee Times, "Focus Magazine"
Third Place: Woodward News, "Behind the Scenes"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: El Reno Tribune, "El Reno Live"
Second Place: Sequoyah County Times, "Pet Calendar Contest"
Third Place: Okmulgee Times, "Distanced Dining Sponsorships"

NEWS STORY

First Place: Roy Faulkenberry, Sequoyah County Times, "DA outlines concerns over McGirt ruling"
Second Place: Glen Miller and El Reno Tribune Staff, "El Reno Tribune, 'Floyd anger spills to El Reno'"
Third Place: Dawnita Fogleman, Woodward News, "Schools rise to challenge: Sharon-Mutual using innovative techniques in distance learning"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Shonda Little, The Elk City News, "Elk City mother tells harrowing story of premature birth"
Second Place: Shonda Little, The Elk City News, "Beckham County cowboy celebrates 74th birthday and remembers famous horse"
Third Place: Patrick Ford, Okmulgee Times, "Commissioner has enjoyed 'tour of duty'"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Glen Miller and Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Hub into the HOF"
Second Place: Glen Miller and Staff, El Reno Tribune, "El Reno remembers the Hall of Fame career lived by Hub Reed"

Third Place: Glen Miller and Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Robocop: El Reno policeman wins Strongest Man title"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Glen Miller and Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Hub into the HOF"
Second Place: Staff, El Reno Tribune, "COVID 19 coverage"
Third Place: Charlene Belew, The Duncan Banner, "Medicinal Marijuana Ordinance"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: Roy Faulkenberry, Sequoyah County Times
Second Place: Linda Provost, The Duncan Banner
Third Place: David Seeley, Poteau Daily News

SMALL SPACE AD

First Place: Lyndsay Bayne and Erin Thompson, El Reno Tribune, "Ross Seed: spring garden"
Second Place: Crystal Childers, The Duncan Banner, "DYO Pizza"
Third Place: Lyndsay Bayne and El Reno Tribune Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Ross Seed: No bugs allowed"

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Lyndsay Bayne and Erin Thompson, El Reno Tribune, "City of El Reno COVID resources"
Second Place: Lyndsay Bayne and El Reno Tribune Staff, El Reno Tribune, "Ross Seed garden workshop"
Third Place: Crystal Childers, The Duncan Banner, "Powerhouse Academy"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Floyd protest photo essay"
Second Place: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Lineman works after ice damage"
Third Place: Johnny McMahan, Woodward News, "Trailer house fire"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "3 stages of pelicans in flight"
Second Place: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Smiling boy at Therapeutic Riding Program"
Third Place: Tamara Gregor, The Duncan Banner, "Local boy's wish draws military crowd"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Chris Day, Sequoyah County Times, "Central High running back stiff arms Heavener player"
Second Place: Chris Day, Sequoyah County Times, "Block in basketball game of Sallisaw v. Roland"
Third Place: Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune, "Volleyball player dives for ball in regional match against Glenpool"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Glen Miller, Lyndsay Bayne and Staff, El Reno Tribune, "February 2"
Second Place: Charlene Belew, The Duncan Banner, "June 20"
Third Place: Patrick Ford, Okmulgee Times, "January 31"

DIVISION 4 – WEEKLIES, Circ. more than 1,700

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER The Purcell Register

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: Lincoln County News
Second Place: Mustang Times
Third Place: OKC Friday

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: The Stilwell Democrat Journal
Second Place: Mustang Times
Third Place: The Purcell Register

ADVERTISING

First Place: OKC Friday
Second Place: The Purcell Register
Third Place: Mustang Times

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: The Purcell Register
Second Place: Mustang Times
Third Place: The Stilwell Democrat Journal

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: Choctaw Times
Second Place: Mustang Times
Third Place: The Purcell Register

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: The Purcell Register
Second Place: OKC Friday
Third Place: Mustang Times

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: OKC Friday, "Celebrate Oklahoma"
Second Place: The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Gridiron Guide"
Third Place: Choctaw Times, "Hometown Heroes: A salute to essential workers"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: The Purcell Register, "Operation Christmas"
Second Place: The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Children during a pandemic"
Third Place: Choctaw Times, "Food Drive"

NEWS STORY

First Place: John Small, Johnston County Sentinel, "Tempers flare during discussion of proposed park"
Second Place: Ryan Horton, Choctaw Times, "Biosolid debate continues"
Third Place: Jessica Lane, The Express-Star, "Protest against racism, for love grows in Chickasha"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Sophia loves horses"
Second Place: Rose Lane, OKC Friday, "Beasley's recreation of painting featured in 'People'"
Third Place: Rebecca Carroll, Marietta Monitor, "Trip of a lifetime... Langley's summer journey"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Shalene White, The Madill Record, "Half of a crown makes one feel whole"

Second Place: Shalene White, The Madill Record, "Dallas Cowboys lay out COVID-19 prevention plan"
Third Place: Shalene White, The Madill Record, "Kingston teen named All-American in trapshooting"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Ryan Horton, Choctaw Times, "Choctaw's road plan"
Second Place: John Small, Tom Lokey and Mary Lokey, Johnston County Sentinel, "COVID-19 coverage"
Third Place: John Small, Johnston County Sentinel, "Federal judge strikes down McCall railroad law"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: Traci Chapman, Mustang Times
Second Place: Renee Fite, The Stilwell Democrat Journal
Third Place: John Small, Johnston County Sentinel

SMALL SPACE AD

First Place: David Stull, The Purcell Register, "Purcell Chiropractic"
Second Place: David Stull, The Purcell Register, "Clark's Floors & More"
Third Place: Juanita Lewis, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Front Porch Fabrics"

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Joshua Small, Johnston County Sentinel, "Simple Simon's Pizza"
Second Place: Kindra Blansett, Lincoln County News, "Anthony's Foods"

Third Place: Juanita Lewis, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "Stilwell Spirits Christmas"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Brian Blansett, Lincoln County News, "Graduation parade wave"
Second Place: Kindra Blansett, Lincoln County News, "Flag-waving girl at playoffs"
Third Place: Brian Blansett, Lincoln County News, "Chandler Rodeo bullrider"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Ryan Horton, Choctaw Times, "Sun sets behind the Choctaw Creek Park pond"
Second Place: Joshua Small, Johnston County Sentinel, "Red, White and BOOM! fireworks"
Third Place: Traci Chapman, Mustang Times, "Splash pad at Wild Horse Park"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Rodney Haltom, The Eufaula Indian Journal, "Bronc rider goes airborne at Eufaula Round-Up Club Rodeo"
Second Place: Lindsay Tesio, Choctaw Times, "Choctaw and Booker T. Washington players in midair clash"
Third Place: Jason Turner, Choctaw Times, "Fans prepare to catch Harrah Homecoming Queen on court"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Ryan Horton, Choctaw Times, "January 1"
Second Place: Jeff Harrison and Traci Chapman, Mustang Times, "February 19"
Third Place: Juanita Lewis, The Stilwell Democrat Journal, "December 16"

DIVISION 5 – WEEKLIES, Circ. 1,176 to 1,700

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

The Cleveland American

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: McIntosh County Democrat
Second Place: Watonga Republican
Third Place: Midwest City Beacon

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: Vian Tenkiller News
Second Place: The Cleveland American
Third Place: Countywide & Sun

ADVERTISING

First Place: Midwest City Beacon
Second Place: Watonga Republican
Third Place: Tuttle Times

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: Midwest City Beacon
Second Place: Countywide & Sun
Third Place: The Cleveland American

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: The Cleveland American
Second Place: Countywide & Sun
Third Place: Midwest City Beacon

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: Countywide & Sun
Second Place: Tuttle Times
Third Place: The Cleveland American

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: The Cleveland American, "Hot Summer Fun"

Second Place: Vian Tenkiller News, "Coronavirus Heroes"
Third Place: Watonga Republican, "Chalk Your Walk Contest"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: Watonga Republican, "Black Lives Matter Special Section"
Second Place: McIntosh County Democrat, "Domestic Violence Awakening"
Third Place: Countywide & Sun, "Pottawatomie Power"

NEWS STORY

First Place: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Murder victim tied to Oklahoma cold case"
Second Place: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Execution delayed after attorneys contract virus"
Third Place: Thomas Martinez, The Cordell Beacon, "First wave of vaccines set to hit"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Shonda Little, Beckham County Record, "The life and death of Staff Sergeant Aaron Weaver"
Second Place: LaDonna Rhodes, McIntosh County Democrat, "Vietnam veteran's love letters"
Third Place: Thomas Martinez, Watonga Republican, "Living with Tourette's"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Bombers knock off unbeaten Panthers"
Second Place: Jacob Factor, Countywide & Sun, "4-2 Spring sports seasons canceled"

Third Place: Flora Walters, The Cordell Beacon, "Injury ends wrestler's season"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Murder victim tied to Oklahoma cold case"
Second Place: Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun, "Who's in charge of the Expo Center"
Third Place: Brandi Ball, The Cleveland American, "Drive-by shooting trial"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: Patti Poteete, Countywide & Sun
Second Place: Rusty Ferguson, The Cleveland American
Third Place: Connie Burcham, Watonga Republican

SMALL SPACE AD

First Place: Jennifer Pitts, Countywide & Sun, "Pottawatomie County Votes GOP"
Second Place: Jennifer Pitts, Countywide & Sun, "Tecumseh First Assembly drive-thru egg hunt"
Third Place: Tatiana Ryland and Kimberly Jenkins, Watonga Republican, "McCrary Veterinary Hospital"

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Jennifer Pitts, Countywide & Sun, "The Farmer's Daughter"
Second Place: Kimberly Jenkins, Watonga Republican, "A2Z Auto Parts"
Third Place: Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "Cimarron Electric: Hello Spring"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Nursing home visit through window"
Second Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Rose State student union ribbon cutting"
Third Place: Jennifer Pitts, Countywide & Sun, "Drive-through testing at three local sites"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Thomas Martinez, The Cordell Beacon, "A Virtual Santa"
Second Place: Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun, "Thanks for your service at Woodland Veterans Park"
Third Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Graduation speech filming at Carl Albert"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Midwest City player reaches for touchdown against Carl Albert"
Second Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "Carl Albert's Kentrell Bizzell runs from Del City tackler"
Third Place: Natasha Dunagan, Countywide & Sun, "Softball player dives for home against Bridge Creek"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Tatiana Ryland, Watonga Republican, "July 29"
Second Place: Jeff Harrison, Midwest City Beacon, "June 10"
Third Place: Suzie Campbell, Countywide & Sun, "February 27"

DIVISION 6 – WEEKLIES, Circ. 900 to 1,175

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

Owasso Reporter

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: Owasso Reporter
Second Place: Wagoner County American-Tribune
Third Place: The Fairfax Chief

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: Owasso Reporter
Second Place: Wagoner County American-Tribune
Third Place: Mustang News

ADVERTISING

First Place: Wagoner County American-Tribune
Second Place: Mustang News
Third Place: The Fairfax Chief

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: Owasso Reporter
Second Place: Wagoner County American-Tribune
Third Place: The Fairfax Chief

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: Owasso Reporter
Second Place: Wagoner County American-Tribune
Third Place: The Fairfax Chief

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: Owasso Reporter
Second Place: Mustang News
Third Place: Durant Democrat

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: Owasso Reporter, "Readers Choice"
Second Place: The Marlow Review, "Marlow's historic football season keepsake edition"
Third Place: Wagoner County American-Tribune, "Hometown Guide"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: The Marlow Review, "Staff produced custom masks for school faculty"
Second Place: The Fairfax Chief, "Trunk Show"
Third Place: Mustang News, "Grace Home"

NEWS STORY

First Place: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "Sheriff's deputy laid to rest"
Second Place: Elizabeth Pitts-Hibbard, The Marlow Review, "Community events address race relations"
Third Place: Elizabeth Pitts-Hibbard, Judy Keller and Faith Leatherman, The Marlow Review, "Active shooter exercise helps agencies prepare"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "Bows for the Blue: Woman rallies Owasso to support police, fallen Tulsa officer"
Second Place: Nicole Roberts, The Fairfax Chief, "Streaming stickball skills"
Third Place: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Wendy Ponca – our own masked superhero"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Shawn Hein, Owasso Reporter, "Senior tribute: Owasso mothers honor athletes after spring season cut short"

Second Place: Shawn Hein, Owasso Reporter, "Isabella Strong: Collinsville child battles cancer, inspires soccer team to title"
Third Place: Elizabeth Pitts-Hibbard, The Marlow Review, "A surprise gift, an 'unforgettable' game"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Hospital bankruptcy and purchase"
Second Place: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "Owasso CVS Pharmacy fined \$75,000, placed on probation"
Third Place: Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton, The Fairfax Chief, "Wind farm litigation in Osage county"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: Jim Redwine, The Fairfax Chief
Second Place: Bruce Hadden, The Fairfax Chief
Third Place: Scott Wright, Apache News

SMALL SPACE AD

First Place: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Town of Fairfax"
Second Place: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "First Osage Baptist Church"
Third Place: Angie Gentry, Bristow News, Bristow News, "Happy Birthday Basil Baker"

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Misti Rinehart, Annette Rihard and Brandi Smith, Owasso Reporter, "Dale & Lee's Service"
Second Place: Angie Gentry, Bristow News, Bristow News, "Western Heritage Days Rodeo"
Third Place: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Tyler: Happy Howldays"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Art Haddaway, Owasso Reporter, "Racial injustice protest photo essay"
Second Place: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "Daughter & children next to OHP Captain Jeff Sewell's casket"
Third Place: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "Smoke and flames escape the windows during house fire"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "The Christmas Star at Osage Nation Heritage Trail"
Second Place: Owen Hutcheson, The Fairfax Chief, "Variations from Swan Lake"
Third Place: Sherry Stinson, The Fairfax Chief, "Rising of the Milky Way"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Shawn Hein, Owasso Reporter, "Owasso coach and swimmers cheer during Class 6A east regional"
Second Place: Carol Conner, The Fairfax Chief, "Woodland's spirited softball team leaves for final games"
Third Place: Matt Swearingin, Durant Democrat, "Softball player lands on home base"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Joseph Fasano, Owasso Reporter, "May 27"
Second Place: Melanie Allen, Owasso Reporter, "January 8"
Third Place: Joseph Fasano, Owasso Reporter, "June 10"

DIVISION 7 – WEEKLIES, Circ. less than 900

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

Eastern Times-Register

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: The Altus Times
Second Place: Cushing Citizen
Third Place: The Hinton Record

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: The Hinton Record
Second Place: Drumright Gusher
Third Place: Eastern Times-Register

ADVERTISING

First Place: Minco-Union City Times
Second Place: Eastern Times-Register
Third Place: Cushing Citizen

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: Yale News
Second Place: Minco-Union City Times
Third Place: Cushing Citizen

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: Eastern Times-Register
Second Place: Cushing Citizen
Third Place: Drumright Gusher

SALES PROMOTION

First Place: The Geary Star, "Geary Invitational Section"
Second Place: Cushing Citizen, "Cimarron Christmas"
Third Place: Eastern Times-Register, "School Tabs"

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

First Place: Minco-Union City Times, "Helping Paw"
Second Place: Eastern Times-Register, "Ahimsa Rescue Foundation"
Third Place: The Hinton Record, "Sports Scholarship Offered"

NEWS STORY

First Place: Thomas Martinez, The Hinton Record, "Ice storm causes major damage"
Second Place: Allie Prater, Yale News, "Car theft on the rise"
Third Place: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "High-efficiency train loading capacity plan show great promise"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Annual fall festival hosted at Martha Valley Farms"
Second Place: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Football player carves out her own path in Altus sports"

Third Place: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Love for hunting turns into ingenuity"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Comanche finds last-minute replacement for homecoming; Tweet' success"
Second Place: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Big house bound; Indians blank Lindsay in season opener, 5-0"
Third Place: Todd Brooks, The Comanche Times, "Kooper Doucet wins Jr. High State in final attempt"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: J.D. Meisner, Cushing Citizen
Second Place: Jyl Hobbs, Mountain View News
Third Place: Allie Prater, Cushing Citizen

LARGE SPACE AD

First Place: Tatiana Ryland and Kimberly Jenkins, The Geary Star, "2020 Spring Livestock Show"
Second Place: Kimberly Jenkins, The Geary Star, "Cimarron Electric: So much to celebrate!"
Third Place: Tatiana Ryland, The Geary Star, "Congratulations Landon Holt"

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Allie Prater, Drumright Gusher, "Schoolbus maintenance before school begins"

Second Place: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Y-M-C-A boy dancing"
Third Place: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Hampshire hog shown in Meeker swine jackpot show"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Brian Blansett, Tri-County Herald, "Meeker Tiny Cheer blows a kiss"
Second Place: Allie Prater, Drumright Gusher, "Homecoming king and queen"
Third Place: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Cattle Stampede at Altus Air Force Base"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Volleyball player dives to keep the ball in play"
Second Place: Rick Hester, Tri-County Herald, "Bound for state - basketball coach hugs player"
Third Place: Kevin Hilley, The Altus Times, "Navajo softball player at home base against Snyder"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Tatiana Ryland, The Hinton Record, "September 9"
Second Place: Juanita Lewis, The Westville Reporter, "November 12"
Third Place: Tatiana Ryland, The Hinton Record, "February 19"

COLLEGE NEWSPAPERS

SEQUOYAH AWARD WINNER

The Cameron University Collegian

NEWS CONTENT

First Place: Northwestern News, Northwestern Oklahoma State University
Second Place: The Gazette, Langston University
Third Place: The Cameron University Collegian

LAYOUT & DESIGN

First Place: The Cameron University Collegian
Second Place: Northwestern News

EDITORIAL WRITING

First Place: The Cameron University Collegian
Second Place: The Vista, University of Central Oklahoma
Third Place: The Campus, Oklahoma City University

PHOTOGRAPHY

First Place: The Cameron University Collegian
Second Place: Northwestern News
Third Place: The Gazette

SPORTS COVERAGE

First Place: The Cameron University Collegian
Second Place: Northwestern News

NEWS STORY

First Place: Zoe Petersen, Pioneer, "Employees claim college doesn't protect from bad bosses"
Second Place: Lea Houston, The Gazette, "NASA visits Langston"
Third Place: Antonice Johnson, The Gazette, "Bills, bills, bills"

FEATURE STORY

First Place: Citlali Vazquez-Perez, Pioneer, "Raquel: One woman, millions of stories (English & Spanish translations)"
Second Place: Zoe Petersen, Pioneer, "Breaking trends: 'Bomaigii' woman embraces independence"
Third Place: JaNae Williams, The Vista, "Remembering Marissa Murrow"

SPORTS STORY

First Place: Anthony Mellendorf, The Vista, "A three-decade old friendship spurs a new one"
Second Place: David Thornton, Northwestern News, "We have a chance": Coaches at

Northwestern are keeping athletes motivated and conditioned"

Third Place: Cambron Alsbrook, The Cameron University Collegian, "Beginning of the end: An interview with Preston 'Ender Blade' Meek"

IN-DEPTH REPORTING

First Place: Nick Dill and Kevin Ford, Northwestern News, "University recycling programs"
Second Place: Leah Darnell and Logan Meriwether, Northwestern News, "COVID-19's impact on education"

COLUMN WRITING

First Place: Jordan Green, Northwestern News
Second Place: Amanda King, The Cameron University Collegian
Third Place: McKayla Holson, Northwestern News

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Stacie Larsen, The Cameron University Collegian, "Straw dam preparation at excavation site"
Second Place: Cici Simon, The Vista, "Students sit six feet apart while studying in the Nigh"
Third Place: David Thornton, Northwestern News, "Bob Ross painting event"

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Jordan Green, Northwestern News, "October sledding fall"
Second Place: Bailey Bussell, The Vista, "Getting glossed for Glamazon 2020"
Third Place: Lea Killian, The Cameron University Collegian, "Madison Lyda"

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

First Place: Charity Whitson, The Southeastern, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, "Basketball player at free throw line"
Second Place: Cambron Alsbrook, The Cameron University Collegian, "Cameron basketball players in Oklahoma Christian game"
Third Place: Na'Tianna Stocker, The Gazette, "Langston basketball guard goes up against Texas Wesleyan"

FRONT PAGE DESIGN

First Place: Na'Tianna Stocker, The Gazette, "October 20"
Second Place: Lea Killian, The Cameron University Collegian, "November 9"
Third Place: Madison Lyda, The Cameron University Collegian, "February 3"

Congratulations
to all the Better Newspaper Contest and Award winners.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS & HONORS

2020 DIGITAL MEDIA AWARDS

DAILY DIVISION

FIRST PLACE

THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

SECOND PLACE

THE SHAWNEE NEWS-STAR

THIRD PLACE

THE ADA NEWS

WEEKLY DIVISION

FIRST PLACE

JOHNSTON COUNTY SENTINEL

SECOND PLACE

THE PURCELL REGISTER

THIRD PLACE

EL RENO TRIBUNE

COLLEGE DIVISION

FIRST PLACE

THE CAMPUS

Oklahoma City University

2020 OPA MAGAZINE CONTEST

FIRST PLACE

THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

SECOND PLACE

MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

THIRD PLACE

**BARTLESVILLE
EXAMINER-ENTERPRISE**



2020 JOSEPH H. EDWARDS OUTDOOR WRITER OF THE YEAR AWARD

KELLY BOSTIAN, *Tulsa World*

2020 RAY LOKEY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN REPORTING

ASHLYND HUFFMAN, *Stillwater News Press*

2020 OPA PERFECTA AWARD WINNERS

The Perfecta Award honors OPA member newspapers that achieve 100 percent accuracy on advertising orders from Oklahoma Press Service in the previous year.

The American (Afton)
The Allen Advocate
Alva Review-Courier
The Anadarko Daily News
Apache News
The Ardmoreite
The Black Chronicle (OKC)
The Boise City News
Bristow News
Broken Bow News
Buffalo Weekly News
The Canton Times
The Carnegie Herald
The Chronicle (Elgin)
The Country Connection News (Eakly)
The County Times (Lawton)
The Chelsea Reporter
Choctaw Times
Clayton Today
Clinton Daily News
The Comanche Times

The Cordell Beacon
Cushing Citizen
The Cyril News
The Davis News
The Delaware County Journal
The Dewey County Record
Drumright Gusher
The Duncan Banner
Eastern Times-Register (Roland)
Enid News & Eagle
Garvin County News Star
Geary Star
The Grove Sun
Guthrie News Leader
Harper County Leader
The Haulton Herald
Heavener Ledger
Henryetta Free-Lance
The Hinton Record
The Hominy News-Progress
The Hooker Advance

Hughes County Tribune
Hugo News
The Kingfisher Times & Free Press
Kiowa County Democrat
The Konawa Leader
The Lindsay News
The Lone Grove Ledger
Marietta Monitor
McIntosh County Democrat
McCurtain Gazette
The Miami News-Record
Midwest City Beacon
Minco-Union City Times
The Mooreland Leader
Mountain View News
Muskogee Phoenix
Mustang News
Northwest Oklahoman (Arnett)
OKC Friday
The Okeene Record
Okemah News Leader
Owasso Reporter
Pauls Valley Democrat
Pawhuska Journal-Capital

The Pawnee Chief
The Perkins Journal
Perry Journal
The Piedmont-Surrey Gazette
The Prague Times-Herald
The Purcell Register
The Ringling Eagle
Sand Springs Leader
Sapulpa Herald
The Sentinel Leader
The Shawnee News-Star
Skiatook Journal
Spiro Graphic
The Stilwell Democrat Journal
Stroud American
Sulphur Times-Democrat
Tahlequah Daily Press
Talihina American
The Thomas Tribune
The Tonkawa News
Tri-County Herald (Meeker)
Tulsa Beacon
The Tuttle Times
The Valliant Leader
Vian Tenkiller News



The Vici Vision
Vinita Daily Journal
The Walters Herald
Weatherford Daily News
The Wewoka Times
The Wilson Post-Democrat
The Wynnewood Gazette
Yukon Progress
Yukon Review

Congratulations to the Perfecta Award Winners

OG+E[®] PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

2020 DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNER: **SCOTT RAINS**, *The Lawton Constitution*

2020 WEEKLY SWEEPSTAKES WINNER: **HALEY HUMPHREY**, *Yukon Review*



Pushing through the smoke and spraying water with force, Lawton firefighters in the bucket of a ladder truck work to contain a fire as it erupts out from the attic area of one of the buildings at Landings III.

Photo by SCOTT RAINS, The Lawton Constitution, July 2020

**Congratulations to
the 2020 OGE Photo
Contest Sweepstakes
Winners!**

The Photo Contest Sweepstakes was judged by members of the Iowa Press Association.

*View all
winning photos at*

**OkPress.com/
OGE-Photo-
Contest**

Enter and Win
\$100 from OGE
Energy Corp.

For more information
about the photo contest,
visit www.okpress.com



A sweet alpaca goes in for a holiday kiss at "Christmas on Main" along Main Street in downtown Yukon.

Photo by HALEY HUMPHREY, Yukon Review, December 2020



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Apple AirTags and Amazon Sidewalk released



Computer Notes

from the road
by Wilma Newby
wnewby@okpress.com

On April 30 Apple released AirTags. This accessory gives you the ability to find devices with the tags attached literally anywhere there is someone with a Bluetooth enabled iPhone.

This is not really new tech for Apple, which has had its own Bluetooth network running for a long time. The "Find My" app uses any iPhone, iPad, laptop or computer that has Bluetooth enabled in the area to find a missing laptop, iPhone or even your runaway dog.

AirTags means a whole lot more devices are going to be out there looking for an open phone so its owner can track it down.

Bluetooth doesn't use a phone's data, but instead uses short-range radio waves to connect devices. It covers about 30 square feet max depending on how many walls are involved.

The simple way to avoid this is to only have Bluetooth on when you're actively using it. Now someone looking for their lost iPhone won't be able to use your device to locate it.

Ah, a dilemma – convenience over privacy, again.

The new AirTags have an anti-stalking feature but you have to have an iPhone for it to work. If someone else's AirTag ends up in your bag and the owner is out of the area, your iPhone will notice and send you an alert. I guess Android users are out of luck at this point.

If your AirTag is lost a signal is sent to iCloud and the "Find My" app helps you locate it by using millions of other iPhone/Apple devices. Of course, it's all encrypted.

Android phone companies use a Google account to do the same function. But unlike Apple, they use the WiFi/wireless service to find the phone. For now, AirTags only work with iPhones.

Samsung has set up the same sort of network for its SmartTags.

Tile Pro was one of the first companies to create these type of devices. It uses the phone it's paired with, but does not use others Bluetooth. Tile has a 400-foot range.

Now Amazon has set up it's own Bluetooth network, Sidewalk, covering a half mile area.

Amazon Sidewalk creates a low-bandwidth net-

work using Sidewalk Bridge devices like Echo and Ring.

The idea is if a home's WiFi goes out then a Ring doorbell can look for other Sidewalk enabled devices to use.

The more Sidewalk-enabled devices, the stronger the network. It only uses a little bandwidth of the other device's home, capped at 500MB, paid for by the owner of that device per month. Amazon has created a network without laying any cable.

Customers with a Sidewalk Bridge enabled device contribute a small portion of their internet bandwidth, which is pooled together to create a shared network that benefits all Sidewalk-enabled devices in a community.

Amazon Sidewalk went live on the June 8 and is on unless you turn it off. To turn it off, log in to your app that controls the Sidewalk/Ring enabled device at **More > Settings > Account setting > Amazon Sidewalk**.

Amazon has released a White paper on the subject of privacy and say they use multiple layers of encryption. Read it at m.media-amazon.com/images/G/01/sidewalk/final_privacy_security_whitepaper.pdf

OPA Computer Consultant Wilma Newby's column is brought to you by the Oklahoma Advertising Network (OAN). For more information on the OAN program, contact Oklahoma Press Service at (405) 499-0020.

Tulsa World creates website to house massacre coverage

The Tulsa World created a website to house all the content about the Tulsa Race Massacre in one place.

The site brings together actual newspaper coverage from 100 years ago of the Tulsa World and the Tulsa Tribune along with current coverage, historical documents and other resources.

Included on the site is a timeline, FAQs, photographs, the Tulsa World and Tulsa Tribune archive of stories related to the massacre; and resources.

It also includes a special report of the series published on May 31, 2020, that retells the story of Tulsa leading up to the massacre and the aftermath and the 100 years later series published in the days leading up to the 100th anniversary in 2021.

The material is available to view at tulsa-world.com/racemassacre.

Chamber names Mark Radford as Citizen of the Year

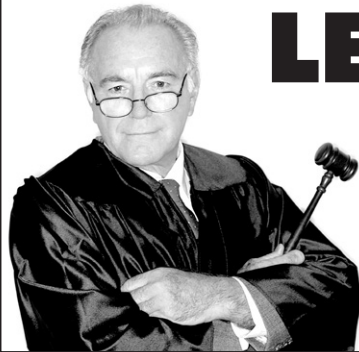
The Crescent Chamber of Commerce recently named Mark Radford, publisher and editor of the Logan County Courier, as the 2021 Citizen of the Year.

Radford graduated from Oklahoma Christian College in 1982. He and his family moved to Crescent in the 1990s. In early 2003, Radford started the Crescent Courier, now named the Logan County Courier.

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Closing shots from the OPA Convention



Retired LSP attorney Michael Minnis was recognized at the OPA convention. Pictured are Martha Minnis, Mike Minnis, OPA Executive Vice President Mark Thomas and current LSP attorney Doug Dodd.



Trivia Night winners with their "Braniac" trophies. Shauna Belyeu and LaDonna Rhodes, The Eufaula Indian Journal; Beth and Jeff Mayo, Sequoyah County Times; and David and Sandra Stringer, The Lawton Constitution. Also on the winning team was Don Mecoy, The Oklahoman.



On display throughout the June 11-12 OPA Convention were first place winners in the 2020 Better Newspaper Contest.



Moderator Mike Strain asks Rep. Frank Lucas a question during the Congressional Q&A session. Strain is president of the Oklahoma Press Association.



Shauna Belyeu, McIntosh County Democrat, accepts the Grand Blooper Award from OPA EVP Mark Thomas.



OPA members take the opportunity to speak to members of the congressional delegation before the Congressional Q&A session.

Convention photos by Richard Barron, Ada Evening News. More than 100 convention photos available to view at facebook.com/okpress.



Oklahoma Sen. Roger Thompson discusses the recent legislative session at the OPA Convention. Thompson is also owner of the Okemah News Leader.



KatieBeth Gardner, Local Legal Initiative attorney based in Oklahoma for Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, discusses how to effectively use the Oklahoma Open Records Act at the OPA Convention.

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OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Column: **JENNIFER PITTS**, *Countywide & Sun (Tecumseh)*

Editorial: **DAVID STRINGER**, *The Lawton Constitution*

Excerpts from 2020 Column Sweepstakes Winner (April 2020)

JENNIFER PITTS, COUNTYWIDE & SUN

Just Breathe

I attended my first video teleconference last week. Before the start of the virtual gathering, a special meeting for the Tecumseh School Board, I had never heard of Zoom. Now that I've been initiated, I'll say for the record I'm a fan, almost.

Still in my pj's, hair in an out-of-the-way pile on top of my head, snacks within reach, I sat at my computer typing notes faster than I can write by hand. The Zoom window was open on half my screen, and the meeting agenda open on the other.

It was relaxed. And I was

especially thankful to learn Zoom doesn't require you to record yourself, or even have a video camera connected, to participate.

There was, however, one thing I hadn't expected. And it may turn out to be the biggest selling point of all for any current, and even future, videoconference meetings.

Before today, the last two Tecumseh school board meetings I attended were joined by no more than 15-17 people, including the school administrators and board members. In

comparison, the less familiar high-tech version had 27 participants and viewers signed into the meeting.

That may not seem like much, but if that many people had been physically present at the school board office, it would have been a packed room.

It may quite possibly end up being one of the most positive "side effects" born from the COVID-19 pandemic — at least as long as video selfies remain optional and I don't have to wash dishes before logging on.

Excerpts from 2020 Editorial Sweepstakes Winner (February 2020)

DAVID STRINGER, THE LAWTON CONSTITUTION

Legislature must stop police bill

Hey, you there! I think you might run that stop sign in the next block, so I'm going to pull you over, ask for your ID and, if I'm not satisfied with your answers, I'm going to hold you for questioning."

Ridiculous? Sure. But that's the gist of a measure that moved out of the House Judiciary Committee in Oklahoma City earlier this month. Fortunately, one of our local representatives had the good sense to try to stop it.

You never know what craziness will come out of Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City when the Legislature is in session. HB 3359 authored by Rep. David Smith, R-McAlester, proposes police "may stop any

person who the peace officer reasonably suspects is committing, has committed or is about to commit a violation" of state or municipal criminal laws or ordinances. It's the "about to commit" part that gives us pause.

In fact, it does way more than that. This is an example of a horrible proposal that sacrifices Constitutional freedoms and panders to a reactionary side most of us fall victim to at some point. But laws aren't supposed to support our reactionary biases. They're supposed to represent our thoughtful, cautious instincts, knowing the long-term consequences.

There are so many things wrong with this bill it's diffi-

cult to know where to start. But, let's start with probable cause, the generally accepted condition that gives law enforcement a reason to question you if they see you doing something inappropriate. This takes probable cause and tosses it out like yesterday's political promises.

Fortunately, Rande Worthen, R-Lawton, was one of the more rational representatives who tried to stop this bill in committee. A former prosecutor, we assume Worthen is supportive of law and order, yet he voted no. We applaud that vote. Unfortunately, the bill still passed out of committee 10-6.



Enter and Win a \$100 Check from Oklahoma Natural Gas!

The Oklahoma Natural Gas Column and Editorial Contest Sweepstakes was judged by members of the Iowa Press Association.

1. Each month, send a tearsheet or photocopy of your best column and/or editorial to Oklahoma Natural Gas Contest, c/o OPA, 3601 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73105-5499. Entries also may be emailed (full-page tearsheet) to news@okpress.com.
2. Include the author's name, name of publication, date of publication and category entered (column or editorial).
3. Only ONE editorial and/or ONE column per writer per month will be accepted.
4. All entries for the previous month must be at the OPA office by the 15th of the current month.
5. Winning entries will be reproduced on the OPA website at www.OkPress.com.

Entries must have been previously published in print.

Contest open to all OPA member newspapers.

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